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EXILES #2
THE DEBUT OF VALKYRIE!
SHE STOPPED RAGNAROK, NOW SHE'S GOTTA SAVE THE MULTIVERSE!

EXILES

A mutant refugee from the Age of Apocalypse, Blink was a member of the original EXILES, a team of heroes plucked from their respective realities and tasked with stabilizing the dangerously shifting multiverse. After saving reality many times over, Blink set out to live her own life. But the multiverse keeps calling her...

An entity called the Time-Eater is destroying the multiverse, and the only witness is the Unseen, the being formerly known as Nick Fury who is now cursed to watch all reality pass him by. But there is hope: A dimension-hopping device called the Tallus has gained sentience and is recruiting a new team, starting with Blink.

It took her to two alternate-future dimensions, where she met Khan (a post-apocalyptic Ms. Marvel) and Iron Lad (a Nate Richards who chose neither Kang's despotism nor the Young Avengers' heroism). But the Time-Eater is on their trail. It's already destroyed Khan's reality, and just took out the Kang of Iron Lad's world!

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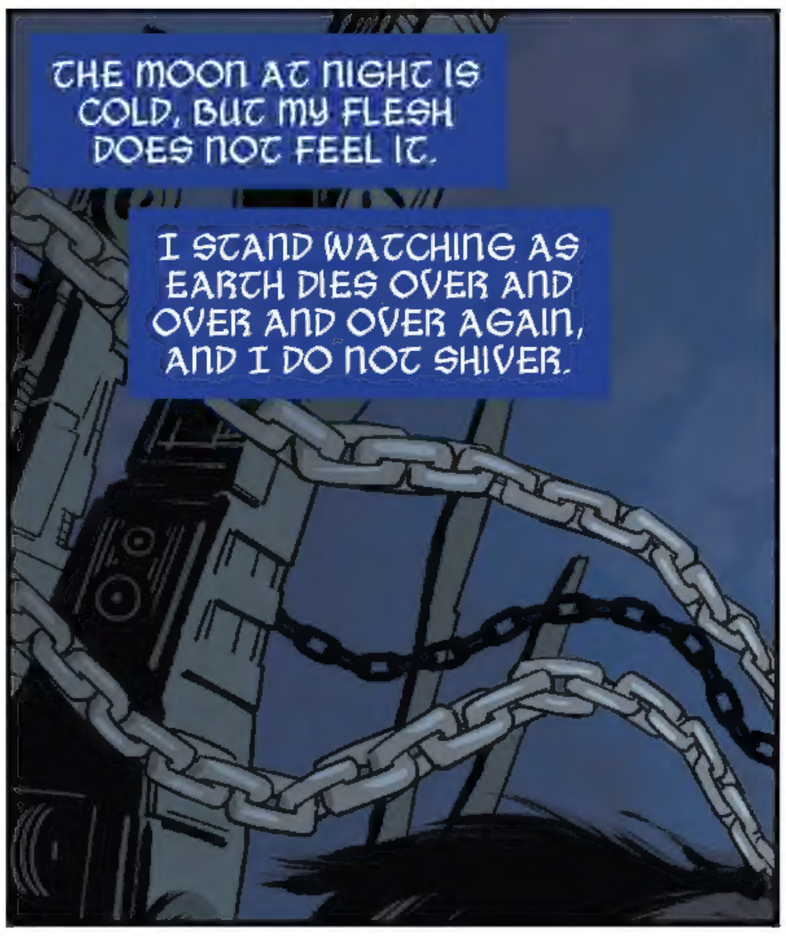
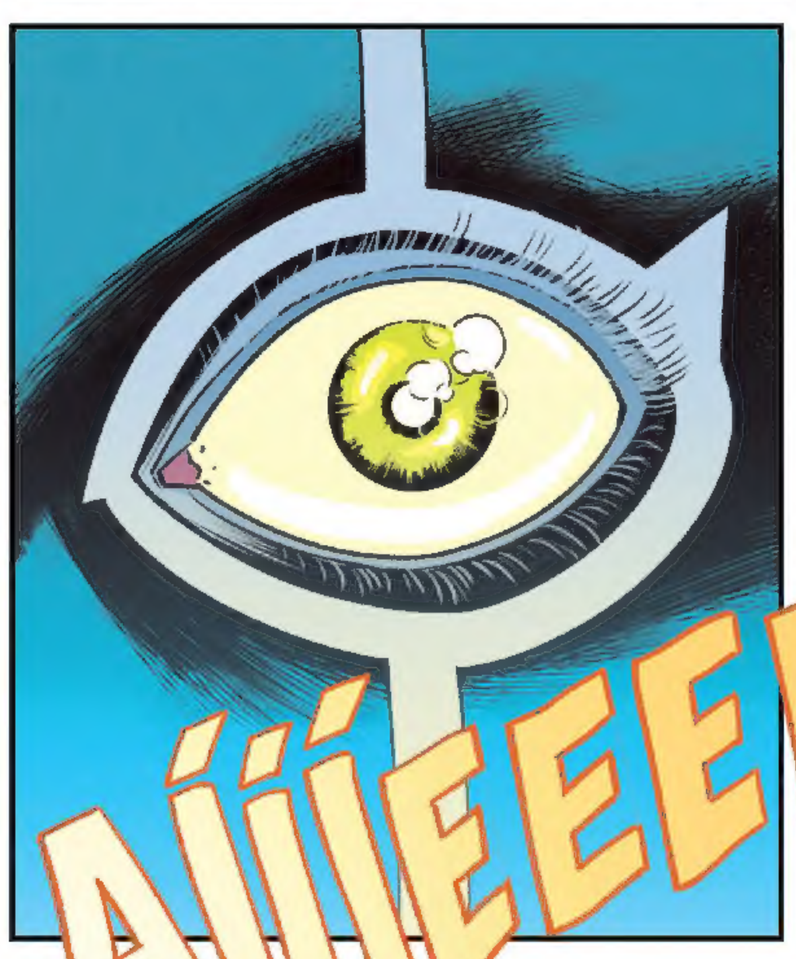

THE MOON AT NIGHT IS COLD, BUT MY FLESH DOES NOT FEEL IT.
I STAND WATCHING AS EARTH DIES OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AND I DO NOT SHIVER.

ONCE I WOULD HAVE FELT SOMETHING.

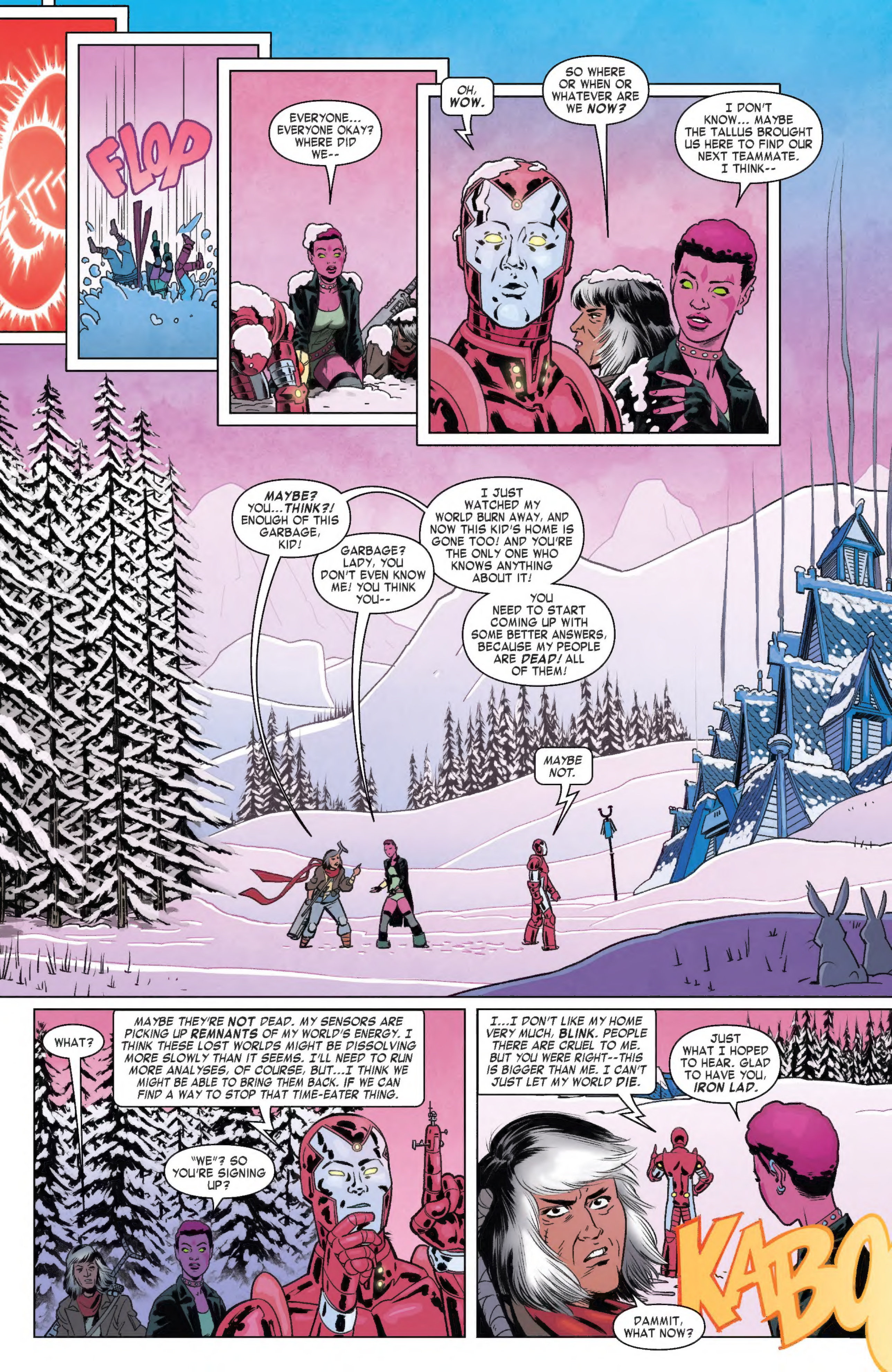
ONCE I WAS A MAN. NOW I AM SOMETHING MORE AND SOMETHING LESS--*THE UNSEEN,* DOOMED TO DO NOTHING BUT WATCH AS THE EARTHS BURN.

CURSED TO STAND BY AS THE *TIME-EATER* CONSUMES EVERYTHING IN EXISTENCE.

YET LIFE FINDS ITS CHAMPIONS. THE TALLUS, FORGED FROM THE CRYSTALLINE HEART OF THE MULTIVERSE ITSELF, HAS SOUGHT OUT HEROES.
EXILES FROM THEIR OWN WORLDS WHO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SAVE A HUNDRED TRILLION OTHERS.
BUT THE TIME-EATER IS CLOSING IN ON THEM, AND THE POWER OF LIFE IS BARELY ABLE TO PROPEL THEM AHEAD OF THE POWER OF NOTHINGNESS.
I SEE WHAT HAS BEEN, WHAT IS AND WHAT MIGHT BE. AND IF THIS HANDFUL OF CHILDREN FAILS, IT WILL ALL BURN IN WHITE FIRE.


AIIEEEE

AÍÍEEEE
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING? IT... IT JUST ERASED KANG THE CONQUEROR!
ITS POWER-- IT'S INCALCULABLE! ACCORDING TO MY SENSORS, IT'S A TRANSDIMENSIONAL BEING THAT'S SOMEHOW BOTH MATTER AND ENERGY, AND YET--
THAT MUST BE THE THING CONSUMING THE TIMELINES--THE TIME-EATER! IT'S FOLLOWED US FROM KHAN'S REALITY! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM IT!
LOOK--THE TALLUS! IT'S ACTIVATING AGAIN! TAKING US TO A DIFFERENT TIMELINE. HOLD ON TIGHT!
HOLD ON TO WHAT?
ZTTTT


FLOP
EVERYONE... EVERYONE OKAY? WHERE DID WE--
OH, WOW.
SO WHERE OR WHEN OR WHATEVER ARE WE NOW?
I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE THE TALLUS BROUGHT US HERE TO FIND OUR NEXT TEAMMATE. I THINK--
MAYBE? YOU...THINK?! ENOUGH OF THIS GARBAGE, KID!
GARBAGE? LADY, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME! YOU THINK YOU--
I JUST WATCHED MY WORLD BURN AWAY, AND NOW THIS KID'S HOME IS GONE TOO! AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
YOU NEED TO START COMING UP WITH SOME BETTER ANSWERS, BECAUSE MY PEOPLE ARE DEAD! ALL OF THEM!
MAYBE NOT.
WHAT?
MAYBE THEY'RE NOT DEAD. MY SENSORS ARE PICKING UP REMNANTS OF MY WORLD'S ENERGY. I THINK THESE LOST WORLDS MIGHT BE DISSOLVING MORE SLOWLY THAN IT SEEMS. I'LL NEED TO RUN MORE ANALYSES, OF COURSE, BUT...I THINK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING THEM BACK. IF WE CAN FIND A WAY TO STOP THAT TIME-EATER THING.
"WE"? SO YOU'RE SIGNING UP?
I...I DON'T LIKE MY HOME VERY MUCH, BLINK. PEOPLE THERE ARE CRUEL TO ME. BUT YOU WERE RIGHT--THIS IS BIGGER THAN ME. I CAN'T JUST LET MY WORLD DIE.
JUST WHAT I HOPED TO HEAR. GLAD TO HAVE YOU, IRON LAD.
KABO
DAMMIT, WHAT NOW?

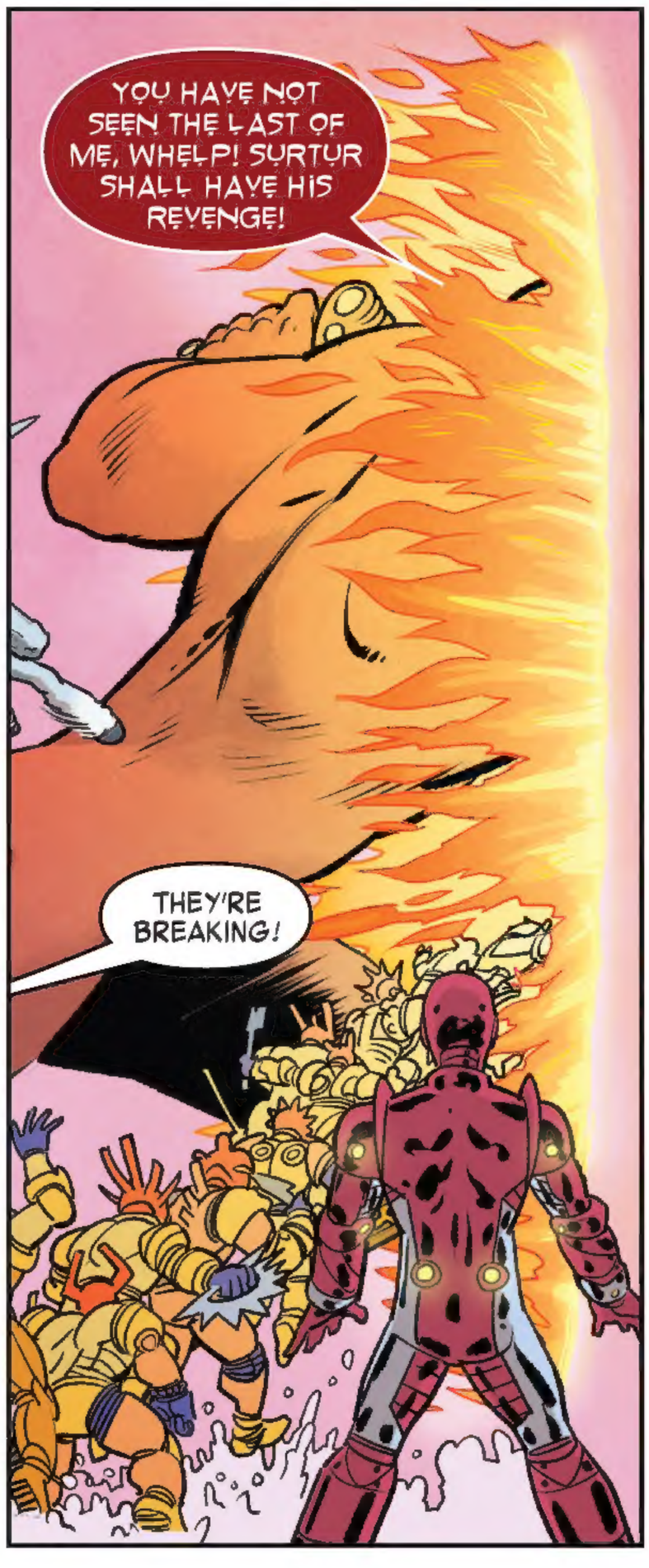
THINE INFERNAL VILLAINY IS KNOWN WELL ENOUGH IN ASGARD, SURTUR, BUT THOU HAST TRANSGRESSED EVEN MORE BOLDLY THIS DAY--AND NOW YOU FACE THE INSTRUMENT OF THY CHASTENING! NOW YOU FACE...
VALKYRIE
KLANK
SWOOSH
COME, THEN, O LONE DEFENDER OF ASGARD! TEST YOUR ARM AGAINST THE FATHER OF FIRE! THEN WATCH AS HE REDUCES YON KINGDOM TO A PYRE OF BURNING RUBBLE!
THIS APPEARS TO BE AN ALTERNATE VERSION OF ASGARD. FASCINATING!
THEN YOU SHALL--EH? WHO ARE THESE? NO ORDINARY MORTALS...
BROMMM
SO YOU HAVE SUMMONED AID, DAUGHTER OF ASGARD? IT WILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT. CHILDREN OF FIRE! SLAVES OF THE FLAME! BURN THESE INTERLOPERS TO ASH!
STOOMP
CRACK
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, GUYS!
YOU THINK, KID?
K-CHUMP
WOW, YOU REALLY ARE A GENIUS!
POWP
KHAN! LOOK OUT! WHERE ARE YOU--
ARGH! WATCH IT!

SORRY!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET US KILLED!

NOT IF WE WORK *TOGETHER*. KHAN, YOU'VE GOT THE MILITARY EXPERIENCE-- WHAT'S OUR BEST APPROACH?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL TAKE POINT. COVER THE FLANKS AND KICK BUTT!

FOCUS ON THE GROUND FORCES! THAT WOMAN WITH THE SWORD LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN HANDLE THE BIG GUY.

YES, FLEE! FLEE, FOUL SURTUR, TO YOUR SULFUROUS REALM! AND NEVER AGAIN TROUBLE THE GOOD FOLK OF ASGARD, OR VALKYRIE WILL NOT BE SO MERCIFUL IN HER DEALINGS WITH YOU!
ALMOST THERE, GUYS!


YOU HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF ME, WHELP! SURTUR SHALL HAVE HIS REVENGE!
THEY'RE BREAKING!

HAIL, STRANGERS! THINE AID WAS MOST WELCOME, AND I DO THANK THEE FOR IT.
NOT LIKE WE HAD A LOT OF CHOICE.

I AM CALLED VALKYRIE, SHE WHO DEFENDS ASGARD AGAINST ALL WHO WOULD THREATEN IT, AND THIS IS MIGHTY ELENDIL, MY BATTLE COMPANION.
HI, VALKYRIE. I'M BLINK. THIS IS KHAN AND IRON LAD.
HRMF.
UHHH, YOU GUYS CAN CALL ME NATE, YOU KNOW.

WELL MET! BUT THOUGH YOUR VALOR IS AT HOME HERE IN ASGARD, YOUR GARB AND MANNER ARE NOT. WHAT BRINGS YOU HITHER?
THAT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. SHORT ANSWER: A CREATURE CALLED THE TIME-EATER IS DESTROYING REALITY AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO HELP US STOP IT. AND I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S YOU.

A QUEST, THEN? YOU SEEK VALKYRIE'S AID FOR SOME EPIC ADVENTURE AND--
UH, SORT OF? I--
THY WORDS SHOULD SOUND MAD TO MINE EARS, AND YET TO MINE HEART THEY RING TRUE! AND VERILY, VALKYRIE WAS BORN FOR SUCH VALOROUS TASKS!

AND YET... I DARE NOT ABANDON MY POST, EVEN FOR THE NOBLEST OF QUESTS. FOR ASGARD'S ENEMIES ARE MANY, AND I ALONE STAND TO PROTECT IT. THE GIANTS WHO--
EH? WHAT WITCHERY?
#$%&!
OH NO, IT'S HERE!

ALL-FATHER PRESERVE US.
RUN!

NAY! NAY! VALKYRIE DOES NOT FLEE FROM INVADERS! INVADERS FLEE FROM VALKYRIE!

WHAT...WHAT SORCERY IS THIS? WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ASGARD?
IT'S BEING CONSUMED BY THE TIME-EATER!
NAY! IMPOSSIBLE! WHERE IS ASGARD? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I...DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW.
XAVIER'S PLAYTIME
FUN SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS
THAT FOUL CREATURE-- THE TIME-EATER, YE DUBBED IT-- WHERE IS IT NOW?
PROBABLY RIGHT BEHIND US. VALKYRIE, WE THINK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE OUR WORLDS-- AND YOURS. BUT WE HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO STAND AND FIGHT THAT THING.
VERY WELL, THEN. IF THERE IS HOPE THAT WE MAY YET SAVE ASGARD, THEN VALKYRIE STANDS READY TO DO BATTLE!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET YOUR CHANCE. SOMEONE'S COMING!

NEW FRIENDS! HI, MY NAME'S WOLVIE!

COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT PIE!

POF

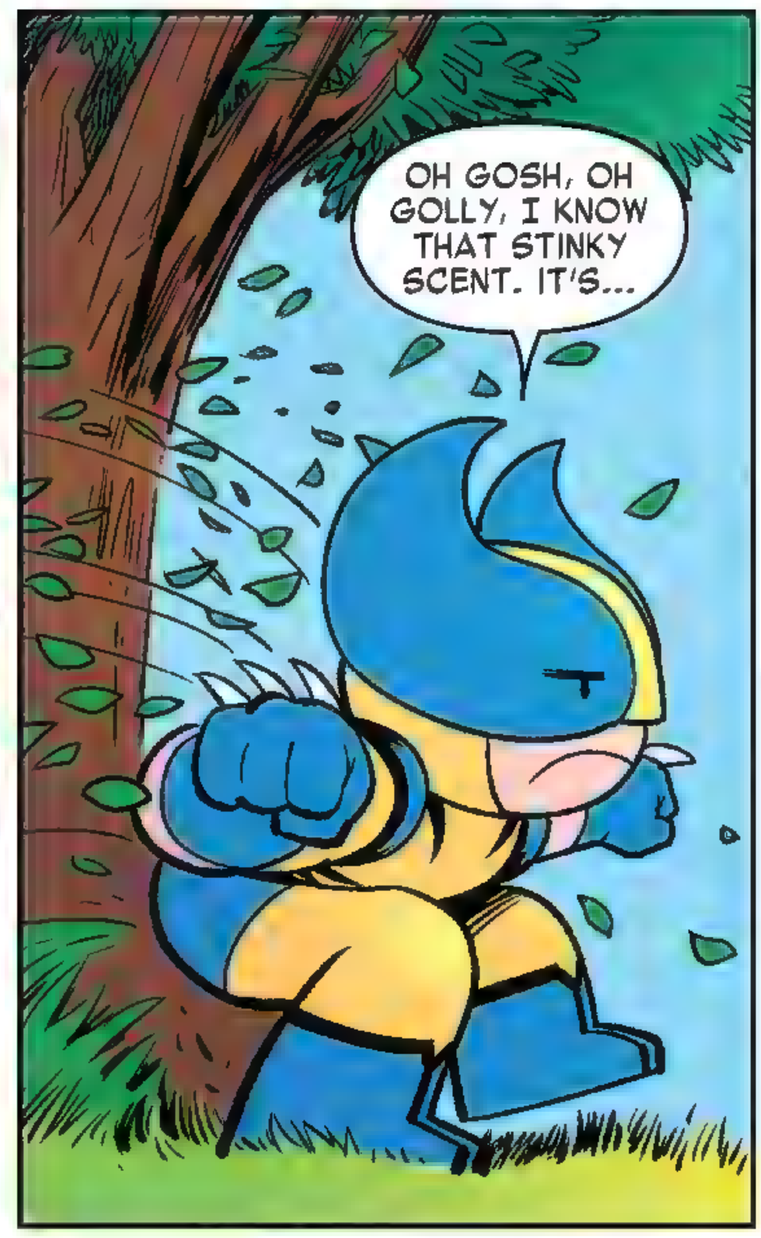
SNIF

SNIF

PFÍUUUUUUUUU

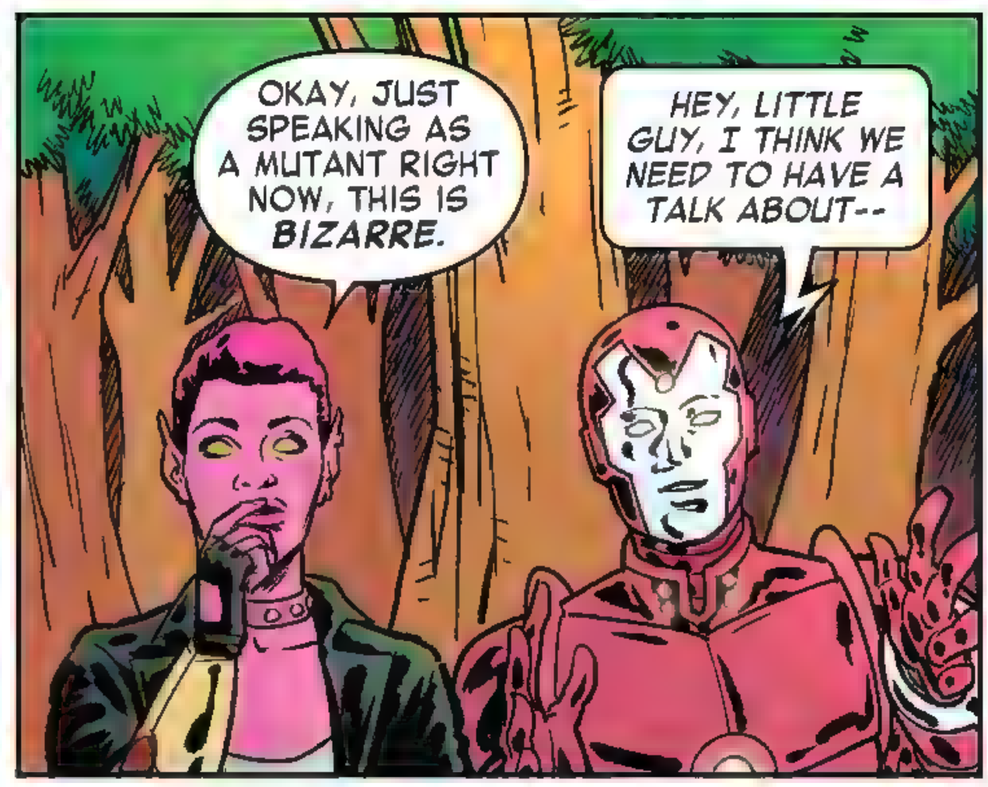
WELL, THAT'S A NEW ONE.
THE FOREST
SNIF SNIF SNIF SNIF
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
BESIDES REALLY WEIRD.
WHY, I TOLD YOU. I'M WOLVIE! AND THIS IS THE PLAYTIME FUN SCHOOL, OF COURSE! THE VERY BEST PLACE AROUND!
WELL, EXCEPT TODAY. TODAY SOMEONE STOLE ALL THE PIES.
THAT IS INDEED A FOUL CRIME! BUT OUR WORRIES ARE GREATER THAN THIS MATTER OF PIES. FOR WE SEEK ONE WHO DESTROYS THE MULTIVERSE ITSELF, ONE WHO--
YOU'RE SILLY! NOTHING BAD LIKE THAT HAPPENS HERE! BUT...WE'VE GOT TO FIND THOSE PIES!
WHUMP

THE FILLING LEADS THIS WAY!
WAIT!
PIES. YOU KNOW WHAT? I'VE LIVED THROUGH FOUR DECADES OF CONSTANT WAR AND I THINK *THIS* MIGHT BE THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE.

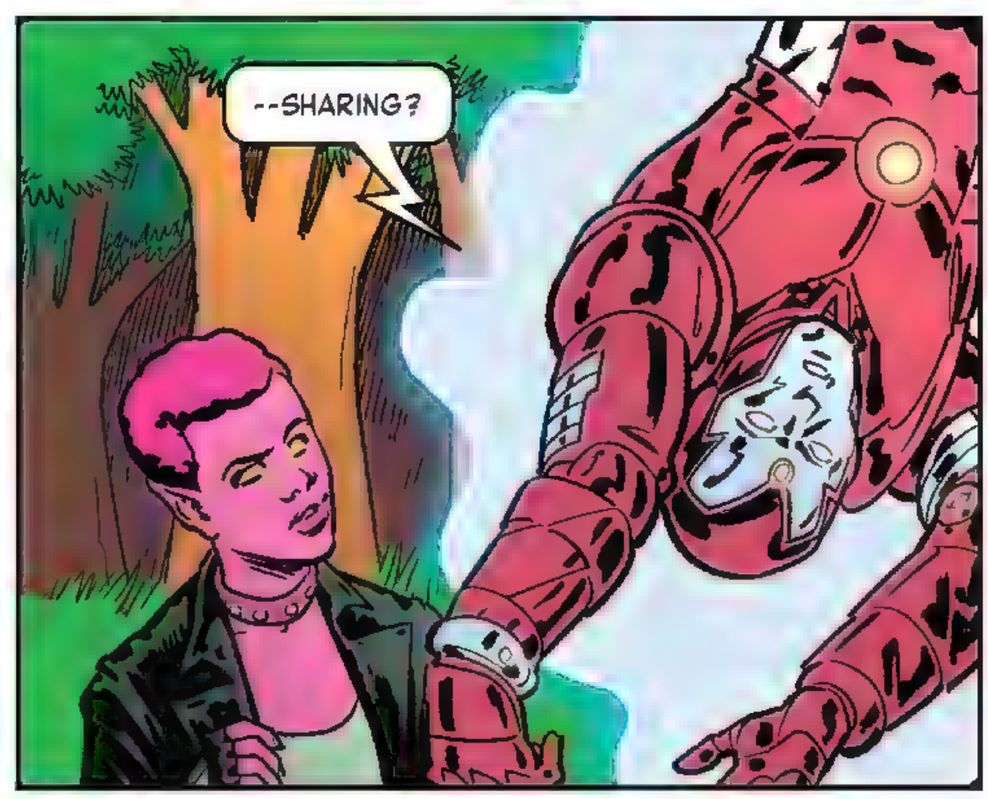

OH GOSH, OH GOLLY, I KNOW THAT STINKY SCENT. IT'S...

LI'L MAGNETO!
I WILL *NEVER* RETURN THE PIES! I, LI'L MAGNETO, AM GOING TO EAT THEM ALL! THEY ARE MINE, ALL MINE! *MWAHAHAHAHA!*

THAT IS NOT NICE!


OKAY, JUST SPEAKING AS A MUTANT RIGHT NOW, THIS IS *BIZARRE.*
HEY, LITTLE GUY, I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A TALK ABOUT--

NO PIE FOR YOU!

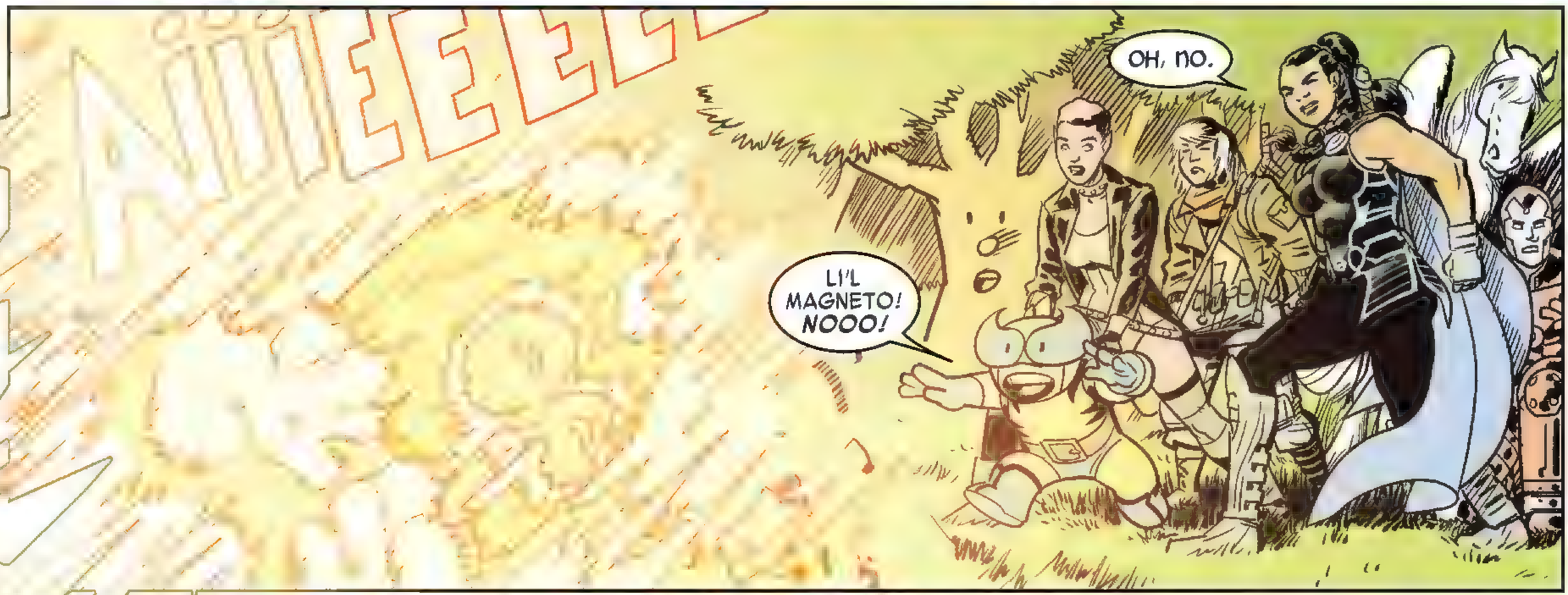

--SHARING?

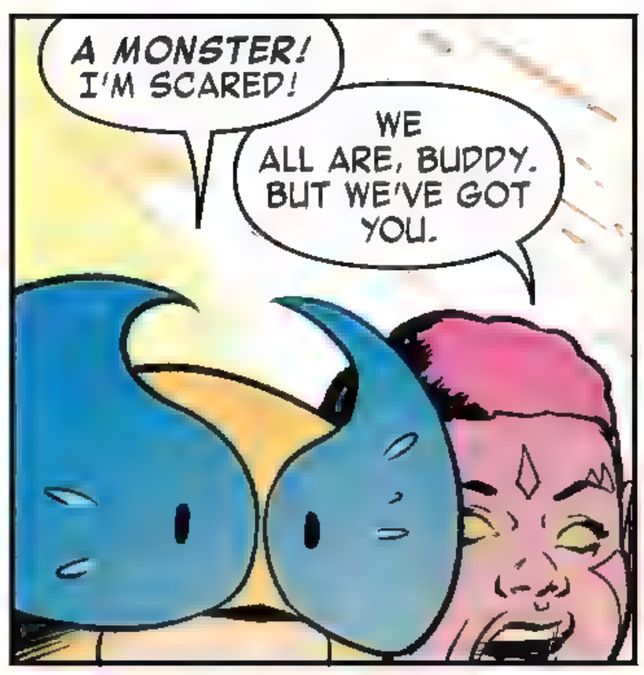
OOF.
OKAY, THAT'S IT!
BURK
SLUNK

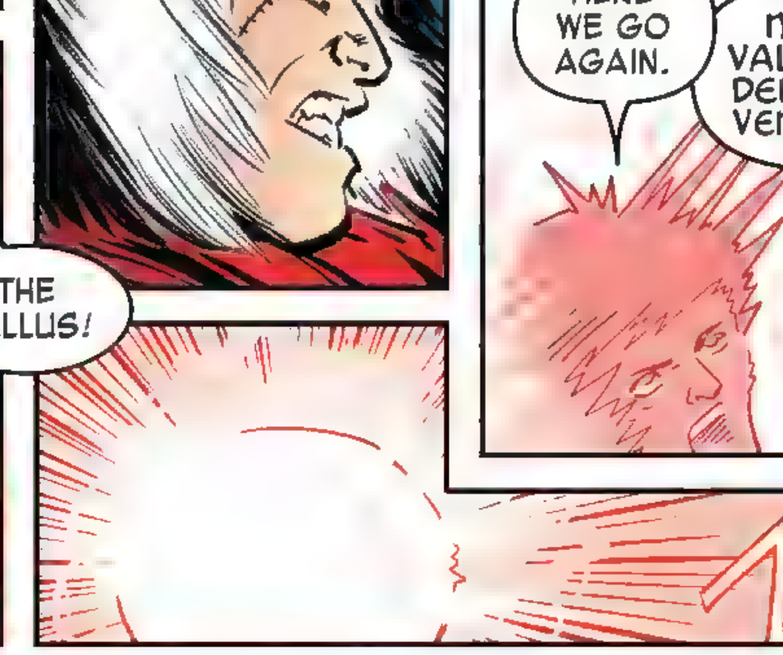
YOU SET THOSE PIES DOWN. NOW, MISTER! OR NO ONE HERE IS GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU.
AWWW. YES, MA'AM.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO TAKE THE PIES, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW EVERYONE WOULD GET MAD AT ME. I'M SORRY, WOLVIE.
AW, IT'S OKAY, BUDDY. WE'RE STILL FRIENDS.

YAY! NOW WE CAN ALL HAVE PIE!
AYE! PIE FOR ALL!
THAT ACTUALLY SOUNDS--


AIIEEEEE
OH, NO.
LI'L MAGNETO! NOOO!





THE MOON! WE'RE ON THE MOON IN MY REALITY. WELL, THE ONE I'VE COME TO CALL HOME, ANYWAY.

THE TALLUS BROUGHT US HERE. MAYBE THIS IS WHERE WE FINALLY GET SOME ANSWERS.

BUT-- BUT--WHERE DID LI'L MAGNETO GO?! I DON'T LIKE THIS!

THERE ARE MANY ANSWERS TO BE FOUND, CLARICE-FERGUSON-WHO-IS-CALLED-BLINK, BUT YOU MUST ASK YOURSELF WHICH ONES *MATTER...*

IS THAT ANOTHER MONSTER?

NO. WELL, NOT EXACTLY. EVERYONE, THIS IS THE *UNSEEN*. THE UNSEEN, THIS IS... WELL, I GUESS YOU KNOW.

YOU WERE NEARLY TAKEN BY THE TIME-EATER, CHAMPION. ONLY THE TALLUS SAVED YOU.

WHAT DID THAT BIG MONSTER DO TO *MY* WORLD? TO MY *FRIENDS?* IS IT GOING TO COME HERE, TOO?

THE TIME-EATER CANNOT REACH THIS EARTH--NOT YET. BUT SOON NO PLACE--NO TIME--WILL BE SAFE FROM ITS COVETOUS MAW.

AND HOW IN THE HELL DO YOU KNOW THAT?

I SEE *ALL*. ALL THAT WAS, ALL THAT IS, ALL--

YEAH, WE GET IT. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW?

TELL ME, WHEN YOU LOOK IN THE SKY AT NIGHT, DO YOU SEE THE MOON? THE STARS? YOU THINK THAT YOU DO. BUT YOU SEE ONLY HALF OF WHAT IS THERE.

DIM AND DISTANT PINPRICKS THAT TELL NOTHING OF THE STORY OF FIRE AND PLASMA. *I* SEE AN ENDLESS ARRAY OF FUTURES AND PASTS. BUT WHICH ONES MATTER? WHICH ONES WILL *STAY?*

REALITIES DISAPPEAR CONSTANTLY. ONE. A DOZEN. A THOUSAND. IT IS PART OF THE BALANCE. FOR EACH THAT DIES, A NEW ONE IS BORN. BUT NO LONGER. THIS TIME-EATER IS CONSUMING UNIVERSES FASTER THAN THEY CAN BE REBORN.

SOON THERE WILL BE NAUGHT BUT THE *VOID*. UNLESS *YOU*, CHAMPION, AND YOUR COMPANIONS CAN STOP IT.

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING TOO MUCH DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS. HOW THE HELL ARE *WE* SUPPOSED TO STOP THAT THING?

HEY, LAY OFF THEM!

LAY OFF THEM? WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS? A FIELD TRIP? WE NEED TO GET OUR PEOPLE BACK. THIS IS WAR, AND WE NEED SOLDIERS.

SOLDIERS? WE'RE NOT SOLDIERS! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?

I USED TO BE LIKE YOU, KID. A LONG TIME AGO. KIND AND CARING AND FULL OF MY OWN PRINCIPLES. IT GOT MY FRIENDS KILLED.

OH, PLEASE. I GREW UP IN A MUTANT DETENTION CAMP. AND I LOST PLENTY OF PEOPLE LEADING THE ORIGINAL EXILES. BUT NOTHING COULD HAPPEN TO MAKE ME AS BITTER AS YOU, LADY.

ALL RIGHT, KID. SURE. SURE.

YOU! NATE! YOU SAID WE SHOULD SOMEHOW CUT THIS THING OPEN AND TRY TO GET OUR FRIENDS OUT?

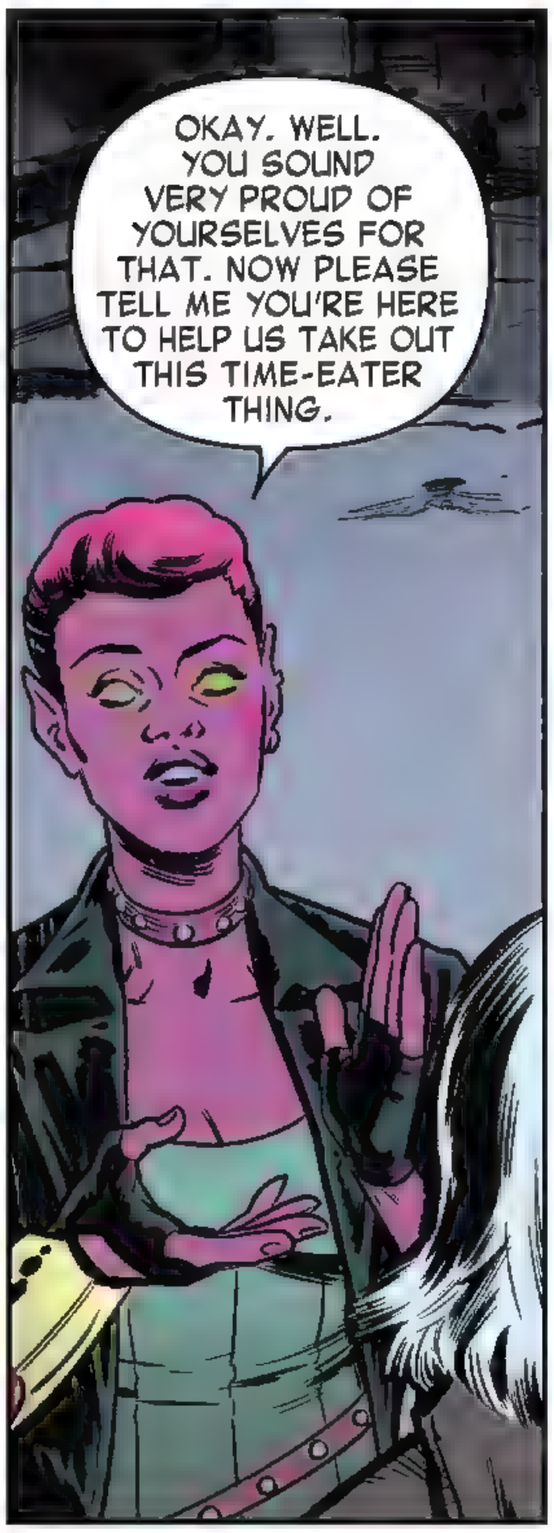
I...I SAID WE COULD DO IT. MAYBE. BUT SHOULD WE?

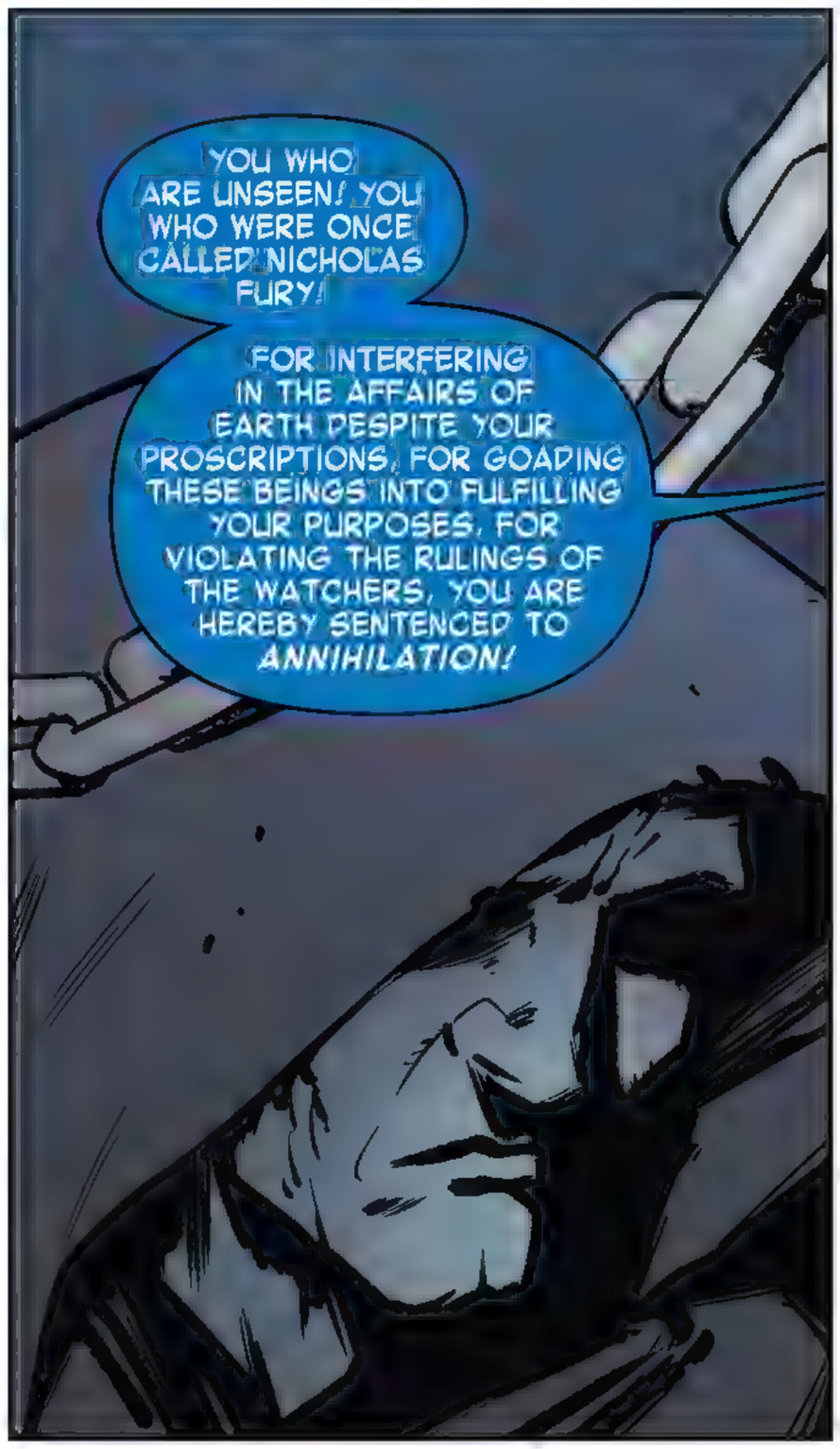
LOOK, IN SOME VERSION OF MY FUTURE, I'M KANG THE TIME TYRANT. TRUST ME WHEN I SAY TAMPERING WITH THE TIMESTREAM IS DANGEROUS. EVEN TRYING COULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.

ARE YOU NUTS, KID? HOW COULD THINGS POSSIBLY GET WORSE?

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO NATE-RICHARDS-CALLED-IRON-LAD, FOR HE SPEAKS TRULY, AND HIS WARNING MUST BE HEEDED.

I AM ACITUA. WE ARE THE WATCHERS.





ARE YOU NUTS? WE NEED HIS HELP! AND ANYWAY, IT WAS *THE TALLUS* THAT CALLED ME HERE, NOT HIM!

IT DID THAT BECAUSE WE'RE *NEEDED*. WHAT PART OF "SAVE THE MULTIVERSE" DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?

INTERFERENCE IS NOT OUR WAY! AND THIS ONE HAS VIOLATED THAT.

YOU KNOW WHAT WE USED TO SAY IN THE MUTANT RESISTANCE? "DOING NOTHING *IS* DOING SOMETHING."

INTERFERENCE IS NOT OUR WAY.

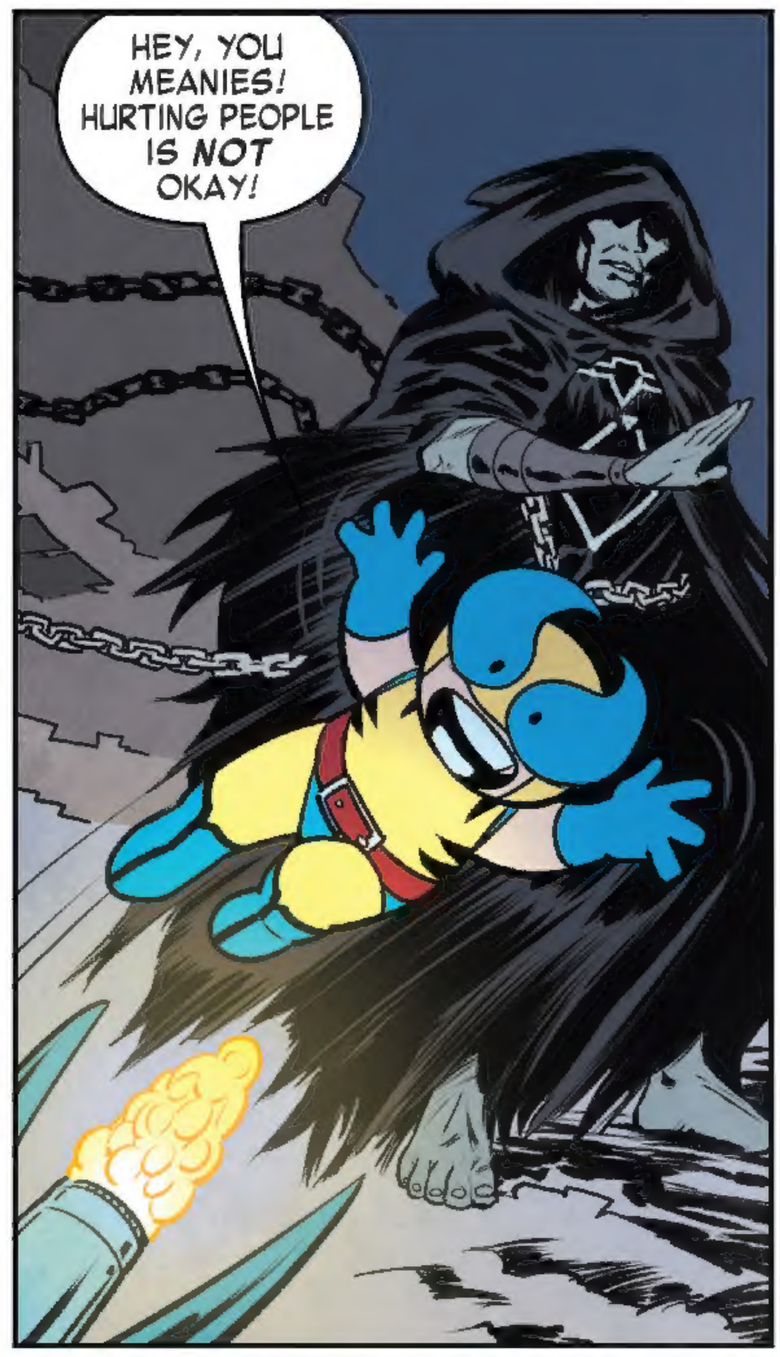
YEAH, I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME. BUT AREN'T *YOU* INTERFERING RIGHT NOW? SOMEHOW THAT DOESN'T COUNT, THOUGH, RIGHT? I DON'T SAY L-O-L OUT LOUD VERY OFTEN, BUT IN YOUR CASE I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

THE SENTENCE IS ANNIHILATION, AND THE SENTENCE *SHALL* BE PASSED.

FOR TRYING TO HELP EARTH?

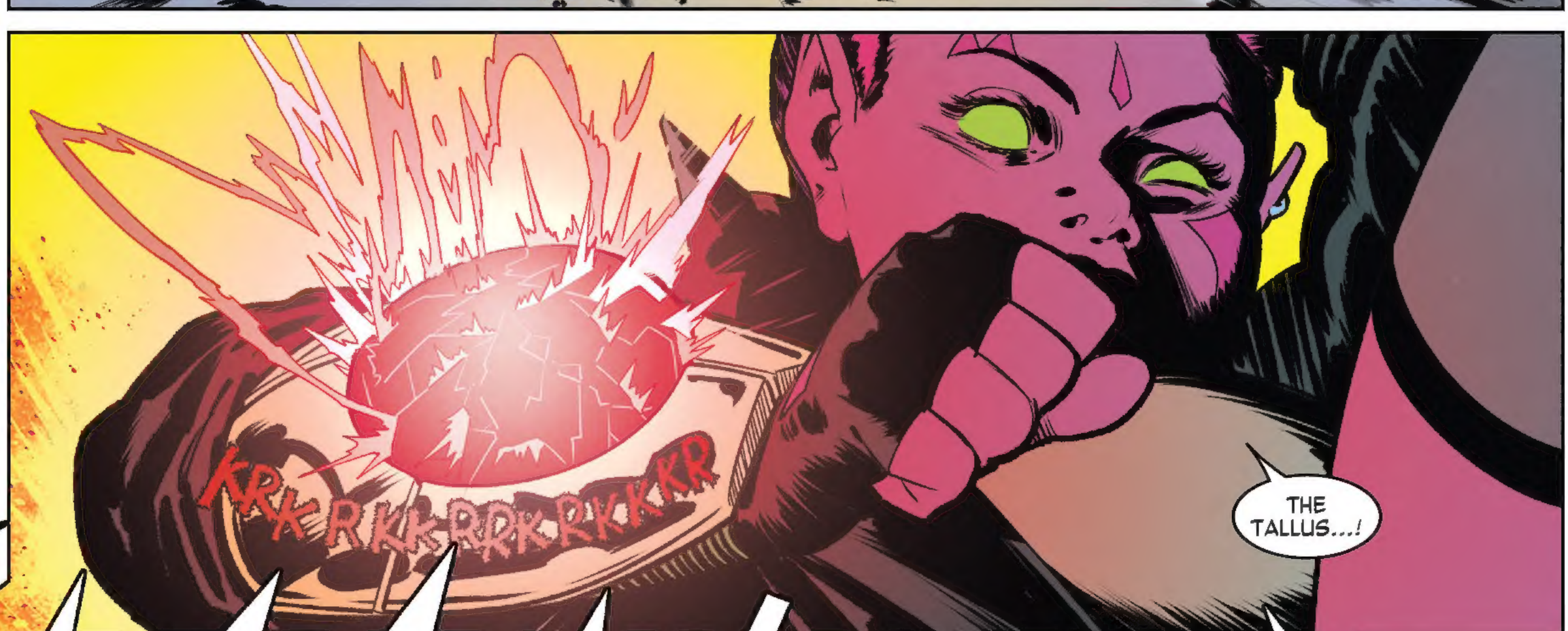
WE CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.

THE CHOICE IS NOT YOURS TO MAKE.
CREK CROK


HEY, YOU MEANIES! HURTING PEOPLE IS *NOT* OKAY!

WOLVIE! NO!
BLINK

ZOOOOOOOMMMMM
BLINK
ZIP
UNH!


KRK RKK RRK RKKKR
THE TALLUS...!

IN ITS BROKEN STATE IT SENDS THE CHAMPION AND HER COMPANIONS FLYING THROUGH THE WARP OF SPACE AND TANGLES THEM IN THE WEAVE OF TIME.

AND IF THEY DO NOT FREE THEMSELVES AND FIND THEIR WAY SOON, EVERYTHING THAT IS... WILL CEASE TO BE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

ZONE